

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 06539 292028Z

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: SITUATION AT UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE CONTINUING STORIES IN THE PRESS TO THE CONTRARY, RUDOLFO TERCERA DEL FRANCO ANNOUNCED HE HAD NOT BEEN OFFERED OR EVEN DISCUSSED THE JOB OF RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT IT IF OFFERED. MEANWHILE STUDENT AND FACULTY ACTIVISTS INCLUDING INTERIM RECTOR LAGUZZI REMAIN STAUNCHLY OPPOSED TO THIS POSSIBILITY. THE GOA IS DISCUSSING THE SITUATION AND MAY BE GETTING READY TO ACT. END SUMMARY.

2. RODOLFO TERCERA DEL FRANCO HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUG 29 TO DENY HE HAD BEEN OFFERED OR EVEN DISCUSSED THE JOB OF RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES (UBA) WITH ED MIN IVANISSEVICH. HE DID SAY THAT AS A LOYAL PERONIST HE WOULD TAKE THE JOB IF OFFERED. HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE UBA AS BEING IN LAMENTABLE SHAPE AND IN THE HANDS OF MARXISTS.

3. THE NEWSPAPER "MAYORIA" MEANWHILE, IN A STORY ON AUG 29, STAGED THAT AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTING THE JOB, TERCERA DEL FRANCO WOULD INSIST ON REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT. IVANISSEVICH IS REPORTED TO BE IN AGREEMENT.

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 06539 292028Z

4. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR INTERIM RECTOR

LAGUZZI. ON AUG 29 HE FIRED THREE PROFESSORS FROM THE PHARMACH SCHOOL FOR "CAUSING IRRITATION AND BEING OBJECTIONABLE TO A GROUP OF STUDENTS". HE HAS CALLED FOR CONVENING OF THE "CONCURSOS"--THE ACADEMIC JURIES WHICH UNDER THE UNIVERSITY LAW WILL REVIEW ALL PROFESSORS AND DECIDE WHO STAYS.

5. IN HIS OWN PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUG 26 LAGUZZI ANNOUNCED THAT ADMISSION TO UBA WOULD AGAIN BE UNRESTRICTED NEXT YEAR. IVANISSEVICH HAD EARLIER STATED HIS OPPOSITION TO SUCH A POLICY. WITH REGARD TO THE NAMING OF TERCERA DEL FRANCO AS RECTOR, LAGUZZI SAID IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE HE IS NOT A PERONIST.

6. SEVERAL PAPERS REPORTED THAT THE UNIVERSITY SITUATION WAS DISCUSSED AT THE CABINET MEETING OF AUG 28. "MAYORIA" WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT THE GOA MIGHT HAVE SECURITY FORCES OCCUPY THE BUILDINGS AS A MEANS OF SECURITY.

7. COMMENT. TERCERA DEL FRANCO STATED HE IS OPPOSED TO THE CLOSING OF UBA AND IF HE WERE RECTOR HE WOULD TRY AND MAKE IT A PLACE WHERE ONE COULD AGAIN STUDY AND DO RESEARCH. THIS VIEW, WHILE LAUDABLE, IS NOT VERY REALISTIC GIVEN THE FIRM OPPOSITION TO HIM ON THE PART OF STUDENT AND FACULTY ACTIVISTS.

8. TERCERA DEL FRANCO'S PROTESTATIONS NOTWITHSTANDING, IT IS APPARENT THAT HE HAS AT LEAST BEEN APPROACHED ON THE SUBJECT OF THE RECTORSHIP WHETHER OR NOT IT HAS BEEN FORMALLY OFFERED TO HIM.

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